



News from MAIENstreet

A Neighborhood Newsletter from
Councilmember Brian Maienschein

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Proudly Representing the
District Five
Communities of:

Carmel Mountain Ranch

Mira Mesa

Rancho Bernardo

Sabre Springs

San Pasqual

Scripps Ranch

Sorrento Mesa

No Airport at Miramar

I oppose the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority's selection of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar as a 24 hour commercial airport. Unfortunately, the Airport Authority decided to place the Miramar site on the November ballot for consideration by the voters.

I have consistently opposed Miramar as a site for a commercial airport because of the disastrous effects it would have on our quality of life. In addition, by driving the military out of Miramar, the county would lose approximately \$600 million each year!

In my letter to President Bush, I said that Miramar is one of the key components of the military presence in San Diego, and the military's presence here is a cornerstone of our economy.

Congress and the military are adamantly against turning any part of Miramar over to commercial use, and they will have the final say on this issue since Miramar is owned by the federal government. In 1996, Congress passed a law prohibiting joint military-civilian use at Miramar. As chair of the City's Public Safety Committee, I agree with Secretary of the Navy, Donald C. Winter, who has stated that national defense needs preclude new or joint use of Miramar.

Economic issues and public safety are also part of the picture. I oppose a commercial airport at Miramar because of its accompanying noise and traffic congestion. Infrastructure in the Miramar area is woefully inadequate to handle the introduction of a commercial airport. Technical consultants for the Airport Authority have concluded that a five-mile segment of Interstate 15 and a smaller section of state Route 163, north of Route 52, would have to be moved east to accommodate their plan. The cost to destroy this recently improved and expanded highway would be astronomical and is a waste of time and money. With so many significant strikes against it, I continue to maintain that Miramar is an inferior choice.

Companies such as Qualcomm and Biosite, and many others, will not be able to expand and grow their businesses because of the loss of industrial land to support the Airport Authority's choice of Miramar. This would have a disastrous effect on our local economy.

San Diego is growing, and it is prudent to consider options for a new commercial airport, but we cannot afford to lose Miramar as a military outpost.

Miramar is not, as some have suggested, our region's only option. That is why I repeatedly urged the Airport Authority Board to reject Miramar in favor of a viable site.

If Miramar does appear on the ballot this fall, I will go directly to the voters with the same message.

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICERS ARE BACK AS THE BACKBONE OF COMMUNITY POLICING

I am pleased to report that Community Relations Officers will continue in the field and will be working with us this coming year. Initially these valuable officers were not included in the Mayor's budget, but I worked to have them reinstated. I am pleased to report that I was able to restore this position in the budget. This means a Community Relations Officer will be working in our Council District. I am very pleased to have been successful in this effort. Officer Paul Lennon, a long time Community Relations Officer, who has been so helpful, will continue to serve our community.

Community policing is a high priority to me. That is why I will continue doing everything possible to make sure that Community Relations Officers remain part of San Diego's comprehensive public safety program.

In December of 2003, as chair of the Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee, I called for a comprehensive 5-year public safety funding and management plan, to be implemented beginning with the City's FY 2005 budget that would make public safety San Diego's number one priority.

Since then, some good progress has been made. For example, San Diego now has a permanent Fire & Rescue helicopter, and police academies have been reinstated to train much-needed new peace officers.

San Diego has one of the best police departments in the nation. They do more with less than any other police department I know of for a city this size. I am glad to see that many of the things that I and my Public Safety Committee called for as far back as 2003 are beginning to happen for this excellent department.

This year's budget includes funding for police helicopters that are safe and well-equipped, new patrol cars, motorcycles and other vehicles. It also returns more sworn officers in the field, rather than keeping them behind a desk.

I look forward to working with the Mayor and Council as we discuss and further develop the officer recruitment and retention element of public safety, as there is more that needs to be done.

As Chair of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee, I look forward to working with the Mayor and the Police Department to develop a long term comprehensive public safety funding and management plan that addresses all of the areas that must be strengthened to make San Diego's public safety services the very best.



This 4th of July I was fortunate to participate in Independence Day celebrations in the communities of Scripps Ranch, Mira Mesa and Rancho Bernardo. I was joined by my wife Janna and my daughters Taylin and Brenna.

In addition to riding in the Scripps Ranch parade with my family, I also handed out awards at the Old Pros 10k run.

Even on such a warm summer day, I was delighted to see so many residents of our community celebrating the holiday.

My family and I were excited to see so many smiling faces at all of the parades and hope that you all had a safe and enjoyable holiday!

Goats Clear Brush in Scripps Ranch

Over the last nine months homeowners, concerned about the amount of brush surrounding their newly built homes in the neighborhoods of Scripps Ranch hit hardest by the 2003 Cedar Fire, have been working on a plan to clear the brush and weeds that can be dangerous fuel for fires. On Saturday, July 1st goats began their “run” into the hills behind those neighborhoods. The volunteers for this lengthy project have been working hard and were able to fundraise the money for it by going door-to-door to solicit donations from neighborhood homeowners. In addition to fundraising money needed to use the eco-friendly goats to clear the brush, the volunteers also obtained a right-of-entry permit from the adjoining property owner and satisfied many City of San Diego requirements. Supportive of steps to make the community as fire safe as possible and as a member of the Fire Safe Council, I did all that I could to help get this plan through the city process. I am so thankful to Jerry Mitchell and for the work of the Fire Safe Council for making this plan a reality.



Councilmember Maienschein with Jerry Mitchell, Facilitator of the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council

New Crosswalks Installed at two Mira Mesa Schools

I am pleased to announce a measure that has been taken to make our community safer for our children while they are at school. I have recently directed the installation of crosswalks in front of Hickman Elementary on Montongo Street and Ericson Elementary on Westonhill Drive.

I was concerned that the driver visibility in these areas was inadequate and the number of cars speeding through the areas was increasing. The installation of ladder crosswalks will increase visibility for motorists, encouraging them to slow down and improve pedestrian safety for the areas. I believe that the ladder crosswalks will provide a much needed safety measure for our children and adults, and make our community a safer place. It is important that we keep streets safe, especially in areas where children are at risk.

Since taking office, my priority has been to protect our quality of life. I will continue to work hard to make our community a safer place.



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<http://www.sandiego.gov/city-council/district-5>

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It's a pleasure to serve you on the San Diego City Council!